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URBAN DISTRICT OF BLETCHLEY

Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

for the year

1946

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Chairman of the Council: COUNCILLOR S. MAYCOCK, J.P.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. S. JOHNSON

Councillors: H. P. DIMMOCK, J.P., C. D. FLACK, J.P., W. G. MELLS, S. MAYCOCK, J.P., and E. E. CALLAWAY, M.B.E.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: COUNCILLOR W. G. MELLS

Councillors: F. A. BATES, J.P., C. D. FLACK, J.P., S MAYCOCK, J.P., R. E. FARWELL, H. J. PRICE, W. D. BRINKLER.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

A. MICHAEL CRITCHLEY, M.D., D.P.H.

(*The Medical Officer of Health is also M.O.H. for Buckingham M.B., and Buckingham R.D.C., and Assistant County Medical Officer for Bucks.*)

SANITARY INSPECTOR

J. F. SMITHIE, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

To the Chairman and Councillors of the Urban District of Bletchley

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1946 This report has been submitted to the Ministry of Health in accordance with Circular 28/46.

It is regretted that this report is so long delayed, but this has been due to factors outside my control.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

D. H. WALDRON,

December, 1947 *Medical Officer of Health*

Summary of Statistics

		1945	1946
rea (in acres)		4462	4462
opulation (Registrar's general estimate)		8545	8342
umber of Inhabitated Houses (end of year)		2400	2500
ateable Value		£52035	£51432
ate per £1		13/-	16/-
um represented by 1d. Rate ...		£216/16/3	£206/17/11
rths (legitimate)	Males	69	77
	Females	67	69
rths (illegitimate)	Males	4	2
	Females	6	3
rths: Rate per 1,000 population ...		17.08	17.5
RTHS: RATE FOR BUCKS		16.5	18.6
rths: Rate for England and Wales		16.1	19.1
ill Births	Male	1	4
	Female	1	1
eaths	Males	53	39
	Females	45	49
eaths per 1,000 Population ...		10.29	10.5
EATHS PER 1,000 POPULATION BUCKS		11.00	10.5
eaths per 1,000 Population England and Wales		11.4	11.5
eaths from Puerperal Causes ...			
aternal Mortality Bletchley ...			
aternal Mortality England and Wales		1.79	1.06
eath Rate of Infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births ...		41.09	34.2
FANTILE MORTALITY RATE FOR BUCKS		32.9	30.1
fantile Mortality for England and Wales		46	43
eath from Measles		0	0
aths from Whooping Cough ...		0	0
eaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)		0	2 (F)

Principal Causes of Death:	1945			1946		
	M.	F.	T.	M.	F.	T.
Influenza	0	0	0	0	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis ...	4	1	5	0	0	0
Other Tuberculosis	0	1	1	0	0	0
Cancer	10	6	16	6	6	12
Diabetes	0	0	0	1	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	4	7	11	4	7	11
Heart Disease	14	11	25	12	5	17
Other Circulating Diseases ...	3	0	3	2	1	3
Bronchitis	3	1	4	3	1	4
Pneumonia	2	4	6	4	4	8
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	0	1	0	1	1
Digestive Disease	3	1	4	1	3	4
Nephritis	1	0	0	0	2	2
Puerperal Pyrexia and Fever ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Congenital Causes	2	2	4	1	1	2
Violence	0	0	0	0	3	3
All Other Causes	6	11	17	5	14	19
Total ...	53	45	98	39	49	88

A study of the above Tables shows that the birth rate for Bletchley has risen as against the figures for last year whereas the Death Rate and Infantile Mortality Rate has dropped.

Figures for Bucks County and England and Wales are given for comparison.

Section B

General Provision of Health Services

i. Public Health Staff—see page 1 of Report.

ii. (*a*) Laboratory facilities.

The bacteriological work of the Urban District has been carried out through the Emergency Public Health Laboratory Service at the School of Pathology, Oxford.

(*b*) Ambulance facilities.

i. Infectious Diseases: Transported by Ambulance of the North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital.

ii. Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents: The U.D.C. 18 h.p. Austin Motor Ambulance with the valuable services of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and British Red Cross continued to transport the district cases satisfactorily.

(*c*) Nursing facilities.

Domiciliary nursing and maternity attendance were performed by the district nurses in a conscientious manner.

(*d*) Clinics.

i. Maternity and Child Welfare.

This clinic has been held weekly under the aegis of the County Council. The district nurses and voluntary committee attended each time and the medical officer of health fortnightly. The number of mothers and babies seeking advice has risen.

ii. Other Clinics.

(*e*) Hospitals.

i. Infectious Diseases.

The North Bucks Joint Isolation Hospital at Grove has been functioning under great difficulties owing to the shortage of domestic and nursing staffs.

ii. Tuberculosis.

The Berks and Bucks Joint Sanatorium has received cases from this area. The staff shortage has affected the sanatoria throughout the kingdom, so that there has been a widespread lack of beds.

iii. Maternity.

Owing to the increased birth rate and the very overcrowded and bad housing conditions, the need for a maternity home to serve Bletchley has become more urgent. The Urban District Council asked the County Council as Maternity and Child Welfare authority, to take immediate steps to fill this vital necessity. Following this request the Bucks County Council purchased a property in Newport Pagnell for conversion into a small maternity home which, though of undoubted value to its immediate vicinity, will not relieve the position in Beltchley.

iv. Voluntary.

Bletchley has no hospital yet, but will need one if the anticipated expansion materialises. The following hospitals have received cases from the town.

Bedford County Hospital.

Northampton General Hospital.

London Hospitals, particularly the Manor Park Hospital.

Section C

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area

1. (*a*) WATER.

(*a*) Quality.

Bacteriological and chemical analysis have shown that a high standard of purity has been maintained as the undermentioned results will show:

Nature of sample ... Household tap from Western Road

Plate Count Yeastrel Agar 2 days 37 deg. C aerobically ... ... 30 per ml.

Probable number of Coliform bacilli Mac-Conkey 2 days 37 deg. C ... ... 0 per 100 ml.

REMARKS:

This water falls in Class 1 of the Ministry of health's grading.

Source: Sandhouse Well.

ANALYSIS:

	Parts per 100,000
Total Solid Residue	25.80
Combined Chlorine	2.60
as Sodium Chloride	4.28
Nitric Nitrogen	0.06
Nitrite Nitrogen	0.015
Calcium as CaO	7.20
Magnesium as MgO	1.58
Sulphates as SO3	3.91
Free Ammonia	0.019
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.003
Alkalinity as CaCO3	11.00
Permanent Hardness	8.2 deg. Clarks Scale
Temporary Hardness	2.6 deg. Clarks Scale
Total Hardness	10.8 deg. Clarks Scale
Lead, Copper, Zinc	absent
Iron	1.13 parts per million.
Fluorine (F)	not more than 0.5 parts per million.

REMARKS:

ii. Quantity.

Owing to the increased size of the town and the introduction f fresh industries, the existing supply of water has been considered o give an insufficient margin of saftey with regard to quantity; ccordingly, two additional boreholes have been started at the andhouse Water Works. Should it be decided to convert Bletchley into one of the satellite towns, then further water supplies will be required, for although the existing water supply will uffice for the building operations, yet it would not be ample for a hriving town of more than quadruple the present population.

Well over 90 per cent of the houses in the district have been upplied with town water. However, a few isolated dwellings n the outskirts of the town remain without a town supply.

(*b*) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The extension of the sewers to drain the Village of Water Eaton as completed during the year, and the additional sewage from his source plus that from the new houses has made the need for new pumping station to replace the Water Eaton Ejector Station ven more urgent.

The Ministry of Health held a Public Inquiry into the Council's roposals for the Scheme, on the 5th November, and it is hoped hat work will commence in the near future.

The Sewage Disposal Works have been working at full capacity, nd should there be any further extension of the town a reconruction of the works will become a necessity, and when such a tuation arises the question of a change in site for the disposal orks should be investigated.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Obstructions in the streams feeding the Little Ouse have been moved by the Ouse Catchment Board, thus the flow was accelered and flooding prevented.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The majority of the houses in Water Eaton not already connected to the sewer are preparing to connect.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Shortage of labour has prevented the smooth and efficient runing of rubbish collection and disposal.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT (J. F. Smithie).

INSPECTIONS MADE

Water	... 185	Housing	... 52	Buildings	... 53
Bakehouses	... 18	Sewerage	... 131	Destructor	... 46
Factories	... 29	Drainage	... 79	Smoke	... 8
Food Premises	31			Slaughterhouses	254

Total Inspections	887
Houses and Clothing Disinfected	13
Informal Notices	42
Statutory Notices	6

(iv) SHOPS.

The provision of customers' lavatory accommodation in a cafe and fish restaurant is still required.

(v) CAMPING SITES.

No sites registered.

(vi) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Complaints of dust from the flues of the coffee factory (Messrs. Joseph Tetley) have been investigated. The management have agreed to take steps to overcome mechanical difficulties and stop the nuisance.

(vii) SWIMMING BATHS.

The scheme prepared in 1938 for a swimming pool in the town has remained in abeyance until the housing situation allows the release of men and material for the building of this most desirable amenity.

(viii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action has been necessary during the year.

4. SCHOOLS.

Old Bletchley and Woughton and Simpson Schools have not been redecorated during the war years, so needed more extensive reconditioning than was reported in 1938.

Housing

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:

1. (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health of Housing Acts) 49

(b) Number of Inspections made for the purpose ... 68

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 49

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 49

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 0

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 0

. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their officers 41

. Action under Statutory Powers during the year ... 3

. HOUSING ACT, 1936: Part 1v. OVERCROWDING

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 0

2. Number of families dwelling therein 0

3. Number of persons dwelling therein 0

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 0

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during year 0

2. Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 0

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again been overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding 0

(c) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report 0

16 New Council Houses have been completed in 1946 and work n 34 others was in progress at the end of the year.

Section E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

(a) Milk Supply.

The register contains 34 farms and 30 retailers of milk.

(b) Meat.

The Sanitary Inspector continued his duties as meat inspector and has submitted the following figures:

	Number Slaughtered	Number Inspected	Number Condemned
Cattle	1155	1155	23
Calves	763	763	1
Sheep and Lambs ...	3995	3995	4
Pigs	65	65	1
TOTAL ...	5978	5978	28

Section F

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and Other Diseases

DIPTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS.

Once monthly a session has been held at the Beltchley Welfare Clinic for the purpose of immunisation against diptheria. The attendance has been fairly good but a large proportion of the older children should have a 'booster' dose of APT to reactivate their immunity.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED AND NUMBERS ADMITTED TO ISOLATION HOSPITAL

1945 Disease	Notified	Admitted to Hospital
hicken Pox	1	0
ipththeria	0	0
carlet Fever	10	10
rysipelas	0	0
uerperal Pyrexia	1	0
leasles	19	0
hooping Cough	33	0
nfluenzal Pneumonia	7	0
cute Primary Broncho-Pneumonia ...	1	0
cute Lobar Pneumonia	3	0
cute Primary Pneumonia ...	2	0
ysentry	1	0
alaria	2	0

The Sonne dysentry outbreak was amongst non-civilian ersonnel.

TUBERCULOSIS

ew Cases				Deaths	
Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory	
I	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
	0	0	0	0	0

Cases of Infectious Diseases According to Age and Sex

		Total all Ages	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	Over 65	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	M.	3	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	
	F.	7	0	0	0	0	1	3	2	0	0	1	0	0	
Whooping Cough ...	M.	18	1	2	3	4	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	15	1	1	2	0	6	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	
Diphtheria ...	M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Erysipelas ...	M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Influenzal Pneumonia ...	M.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	
	F.	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0	
Measles ...	M.	14	0	0	3	0	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	5	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Acute Prim. Pneumonia	M.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
	F.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Acute Lobar Pneumonia	M.	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Chicken Pox ...	M.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Sonne Dysentry ...	M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Dysentry ...	M.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Infective Paroritis ...	M.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Acute Prim. Bronco ...	M.	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Pneumonia	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	M.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	F.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	
Malaria ...	M.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	
	F.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	